

**Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**

TO : Director of Security

DATE: 12 July 1954

FROM : Chief, Special Security Division

SUBJECT: Activities Report for June 1954

GENERAL

1. During the month of June 1954 the cooperation of the Special Security Division was solicited by the Security Division in completing investigations on 233 applicants on or before 28 June. Expedite clearances on these individuals were required by the Personnel Division in order that commitments might be made to the applicants, in the main recent graduates of local high schools, before they accepted other employment.

In order to accomplish this assignment, designated as Project CRASH, it was necessary for this Division to assign to the District Field Office on temporary duty eleven special agents, four correspondents, and six stenographers. The [redacted] agents included representatives of all field offices with the exception of [redacted]. This staff, administered by the Chief, Special Referral Branch, and the ASAC/[redacted] devoted its efforts exclusively to the investigation of the 233 applicant cases. Special procedures were devised for the handling of these cases upon receipt at [redacted] and at Headquarters so that no delay would be experienced. All of the 233 cases, which were assigned to [redacted] as of 7 June, were completed on or before 16 June, or twelve days prior to the deadline. The successful completion of Project CRASH was made possible by the enthusiastic cooperation and extra effort of the special staff at [redacted] and personnel of the Covert Records Section and Open Desk at Headquarters. This again graphically illustrates the flexibility of the Division based on the teamwork demonstrated in this instance.

2. During the month of June 1954 the Director, CIA made the decision that the responsibility for the Official Cover Program of the Agency will rest in DD/P. A paper has been prepared delineating the areas of activity of the Security Office in conformance with the decision of the Director, CIA.

3. The six months period from January to June 1954 saw this Division complete thirty-two (32) overseas escort assignments. Comparing this figure with the twenty-four (24) escort

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missions which had been completed from the inception of the program until 1 January 1954, the rapid expansion of the program is self-evident. It, therefore, has been deemed appropriate to assign to a Senior Agent of the Special Referral Branch the responsibility of administering the program within the Special Referral Branch. Included among these responsibilities are:

- a. Maintenance of Statistical controls.
- b. Maintenance of "Overseas Contact Box."
- c. Briefing and debriefing of escorting agents.
- d. Coordination with the Operations Branch.
- e. Follow closely and make recommendations concerning the escort and courier program.

4. The month of June saw the Special Security Division active beyond its normal demands in the field of specialized study and surveying of project activity. Specifically, a team of four supervisors and one stenographer was set up to devote intensive and comprehensive full-time attention to the emigre problem in connection with Project [REDACTED]. Two of the supervisors were brought to Headquarters on temporary duty from the field to assist in this undertaking. During the month 504 man hours were devoted to the preparation of 171 summaries of information in SO regarding individuals of interest to [REDACTED]. Each summary included, where available, information regarding biographical data, political attitudes, relationship with intelligence services and other governments, derogatory data, and clearance status. The summaries were prepared following a review of all available information in the Security Office files. It was necessary to evaluate, analyze and determine the reliability of sources and informants prior to preparation of the formal summary. An average of three reference files were reviewed for each summary prepared and numerous contacts were had with representatives of various components of the Security Office for clarifying details concerning various aspects of information reflected in SO files. The main body of the task force will require supplemental reports and perhaps investigation for a number of the more prominent individuals who are either employed by or attacking components of [REDACTED].

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5. As of the end of June 1954 the Security Office Soft Ball League has completed two-thirds of its season. Each of the four teams involved have but one remaining game to play, and these games will be completed during July and early August 1954. As of this date the annual soft ball play-off and picnic is scheduled for 29 August 1954.

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INVESTIGATIVE

1. The attached Tab A shows the total pending case load (including all type cases) for the past twenty months - November 1952 through June 1954. The total pending cases at the end of June 1954 represents the highest total for the entire period and continues strongly the definite upward trend evidenced during the previous three months. The June total is 8 percent over May.

Tab B reflects a breakdown of the pending case load above into Overt (and Semi-Covert) Clearance, Covert Clearance, and Support type cases for the period September 1953 through June 1954. The total pending Overt Clearance cases are the highest for the period depicted and continues a marked upward swing which began in March 1954. The total overt cases increased 6 percent over May 1954. The covert case load is the second highest for the period and increased 15 percent over May 1954. Pending support type cases continued to increase, being 2 percent over May, and being the highest for the period.

Total Receipts and Total Completions for the past ten months are reflected by Tab C. Total Receipts for June were 5 percent over May and were above average for the period covered. Completions increased 27 percent over May 1954, but were still low for the period.

Tab D attached compares the Overt, Covert and Support type requests received October 1953 through June 1954. The overt receipts increased 8 percent during June. Covert receipts increased 20 percent, reaching the second highest peak of the period. Support receipts decreased 33 percent.

The attached Tab E depicts the number of ninety-day old cases in the Division during the past twenty months. The total ninety-day old cases at the end of June were 533, the highest number for the period, representing a 68 percent increase over May.

Tab F attached reflects the results of name checks for outside agencies. Little change is indicated by this graph. The Division continues to process between 1600 and 2000 cases per month in this category.

SUPPORT

Support-type cases handled by the Special Security Division have, during the past two years, increased immeasurably. This has been due partially to the steady growth of the Agency and its

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ever-expanding field of operations and activities. Another reason for the increase in this type of case results from the fact that the service rendered by the Special Security Division is becoming known more and more throughout the Agency. "Satisfied customers" are returning again and again for assistance and at the same time are recommending our work to other components of CIA. As a result, the Division is called on continuously to render support to nearly every office of the Agency at one time or another in a wide variety of activities.

2. Statistics within the Division reveal that during the month of June 1954 ten (10) overseas escort missions involving 70,187 miles of air travel were completed. Of these ten (10) missions, six (6) were flown in connection with Project [REDACTED]. The other four (4) missions included three (3) escort assignments from the [REDACTED] and one (1) escort assignment to the Far East. The 70,000 miles flown is an all-time high for the Division and it required 320 hours of air travel. Nine (9) different agents were used in the conduct of these escort missions.

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3. During the month, seventeen (17) covert site investigations were completed. Of these seventeen (17), it was necessary to recommend against the usage of two (2) of these covert sites.

4. The Cover Branch of the Special Security Division each month spends a great deal of its time in support work for other components of the Agency. Listed below are a few examples of support cases handled by this Division in the field of cover.

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by this office and transmitted to SE Division. That office was very appreciative of the support provided in the termination of the cover employment.

5. In addition to the above-mentioned work handled by this Division, representatives of the Division have made several surveys and studies at the request of various Agency components. Surveys and studies were completed for the EE Division, the Military Personnel Division and the Central Processing Branch.

SPACE

1. Arrangements have been made by the Administration and Training Staff whereby this Division will obtain temporary space in "L" Building to be used by those agents reviewing RI files. This room, 2021 "L" Building, has been assigned on a temporary basis pending the receipt of Room 1024 "L" Building. It is anticipated that within the next sixty (60) days Room 1024 "L" Building will be assigned this Division on a permanent basis.

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